



U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: April 25, 2014

Workers return to WIPP site

This week, 90 Nuclear Waste Partnership employees returned to WIPP. The workers, whose jobs require annual certifications, completed required training at Carlsbad facilities in preparation for resuming their duties at the site.

The employees received extensive radiological and hazardous waste worker training, conduct of operations courses training, and completed annual Mine Safety and Health Administration underground safety requirements while working offsite in the time since the February 14 radiological event.

Upon returning to the site, workers will perform plant and equipment maintenance and restoration, radiological checks, sampling activities, and support work procedure revisions.

Safety improvements since the workers were last on site include an additional continuous air monitor at Station B that will allow employees to take prompt protective actions if a radiological release is detected, as well as hand and foot monitors for daily contamination checks before they leave the site.

Joint Information Center training completed

WIPP recognizes that the ability to communicate emergency information quickly and accurately to the public and media are essential. This week, WIPP's Joint Information Center (JIC) team participated in an emergency communications training course and tabletop exercise that was led by a crisis communications expert.

Throughout the week, the crisis communications expert and JIC team evaluated WIPP's communications technology and past practices during emergencies to identify areas for improvement and other best practices to implement.

The JIC includes employees with technical and communications backgrounds from across WIPP divisions and organizations. If an emergency requires the JIC to activate, its mission is to provide timely information and respond to public and media questions during the emergency.

The public information telephone number at the facility is 575-234-7380, and the media telephone number is 575-234-7305. The WIPP JIC is located at 4021 National Parks Highway in Carlsbad, N.M.

CBFO Manager's weekly update to local residents

Read Carlsbad Field Office Manager Joe Franco's letter to Eddy and Lea County residents for the week of April 21 at http://www.wipp.energy.gov/pr/2014/4_25_14_CBFO_Manager_Ltr.pdf.

Community Meetings Scheduled

May 1 – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host a weekly meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the weekly meetings can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rvy/>.